

## About Assistant Secretary Ann L. Combs



Ann L. Combs was confirmed as Assistant Secretary of the Employee Benefits Security Administration (formerly the Pension and Welfare Benefits Administration), U. S. Department of Labor on May 9, 2001. The Assistant Secretary heads an agency which oversees approximately 700,000 pension plans with nearly \$5 trillion in assets and another 6 million health and welfare benefits plans. She is responsible for the administration and enforcement of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

Before her appointment, Ms. Combs was Vice President and Chief Counsel, Retirement and Pension Issues for the American Council of Life Insurers (ACLI). Prior to joining ACLI, Ms. Combs was a principal of William M. Mercer, where she was responsible for the firm's government relations practice. Her previous experience includes the National Association of Manufacturers and Price Waterhouse, Inc.

During the Reagan and prior Bush Administrations, Ms. Combs spent six years as Deputy Assistant Secretary of Labor for EBSA. She also served on the 1994-1996 Advisory Council on Social Security.

A graduate of the University of Notre Dame, Ms. Combs holds a J.D. from the George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the District of Columbia Bar.